



# **Ashtabula County Metroparks**

**For Fun, for Health, for Life**

**Larry Frimerman**

**Executive Director**

[www.ashtabulametroparks.com](http://www.ashtabulametroparks.com)



# We are **YOUR** Metroparks System

- Founded in 1959, ACMP has always relied heavily on volunteers.



- In 2014, County Voters approved a .5 Mil Tax Levy to provide general operating funds to Metroparks to provide funding for professional operations, leverage grant funds, expanding our park system. This amounts to \$18 per year for every \$100,000 of valuation on your property taxes.
- First levy funds received March 2016. supplemented by matching project grants, small legacy funds and contributions.

# Your Ashtabula County Metroparks

## **Board of Park Commissioners:**

- Bob Best, President
- Marie Lane, Vice President
  - Paul Carpenter
  - Charlie Kohli
- Holly Mayernick

- Staff (3 Full time):
  - Larry Frimerman, Executive Director
  - Brett Bellas, Operations Manager
  - Pam Blough, Office Manager
  - Pam Bradek, Park Ranger – (part time)
  - Kristen Fortune Wheeler, Park Ranger (part time)
  - Austyn Hamper, Maintenance Associate (Seasonal)
- (Personnel cost ~20% of annual budget)

# Fully Open Parks/Trails

## Prior to 2014 Levy

- Western Reserve Greenway Trail – 27.5 miles of trails, 330 acres w/ pavilions, parking, restrooms, Underground RR display
- Harpersfield Covered Bridge 53 acres, parking, pavilions, Restrooms, no improved trails
- ¼ acre Graham Road Covered Bridge - no trails

**Total: 3 fully open  
parks/facilities, 386 acres  
27.5 Miles of Trails**

## Since Levy Passage

- Western Reserve Greenway Trail – 27.5 miles of trails, 330 acres, with pavilions, parking, restrooms, bike fixit stations, Underground RR display
- Harpersfield Metropark 53 acres 2 paved trails 1mile- Summer, 2019, playground, pavilions, parking, restrooms, shop
- Camp Peet Metropark 68 acres, 1.6 miles trails, pavilion, vault restroom, group camp facilities
- Lampson Res. Metropark 162 acres, 2 miles trail, fishing pier, pkg
- Hatches Corners Metro- 202 acres 2 miles trails, 2 parking lots
- Friends of Conneaut Creek- 79 acres, .4 mi paved trail, 2 mi mowed trail, parking
- Eyring Wetlands Metropark 52 acres donated, ~2 mi trails, parking
- Red Brook Metropark – 145 acres 3 miles paved trails, 2 miles paved 2020, parking, habitat restoration planned
- Graham Road Covered Bridge- no trails
- Soon: North Shore Trail 2019-20 4.25 Miles (40 acres?)

**Total: 9 open parks/facilities, 1100 acres  
~45 Miles of Trails**



## **Also Since Levy Passage by end of 2019:**

- **Fishing access at 10 Metroparks facilities (instead of 2)**
- **Boating access @ 4 Metroparks facilities (instead of 1)**
- **115 Hunting permits issued for 5 parks in 2018**



# Red Brook Metropark

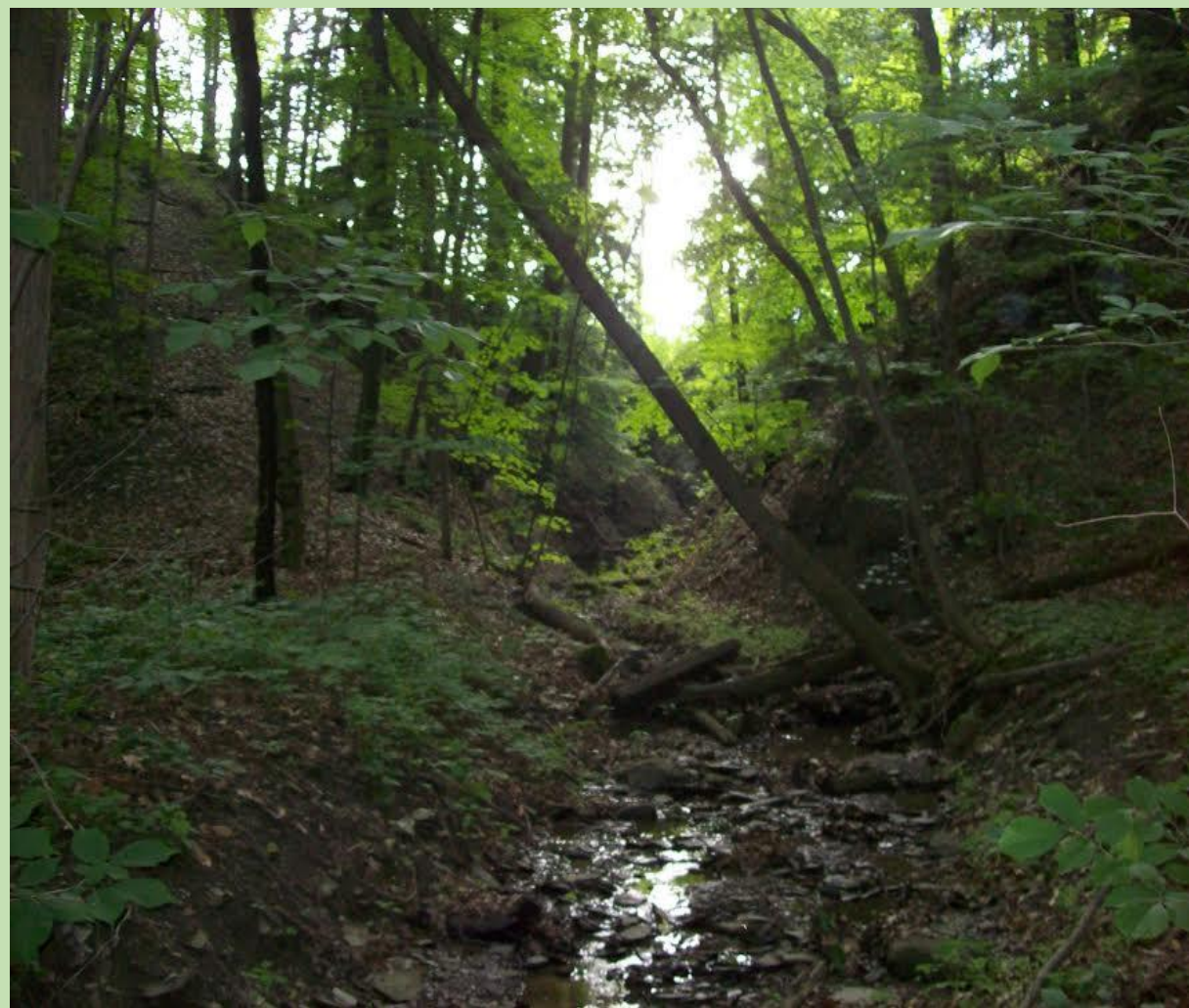


# Camp Peet Metropark





## Camp Peet, Continued

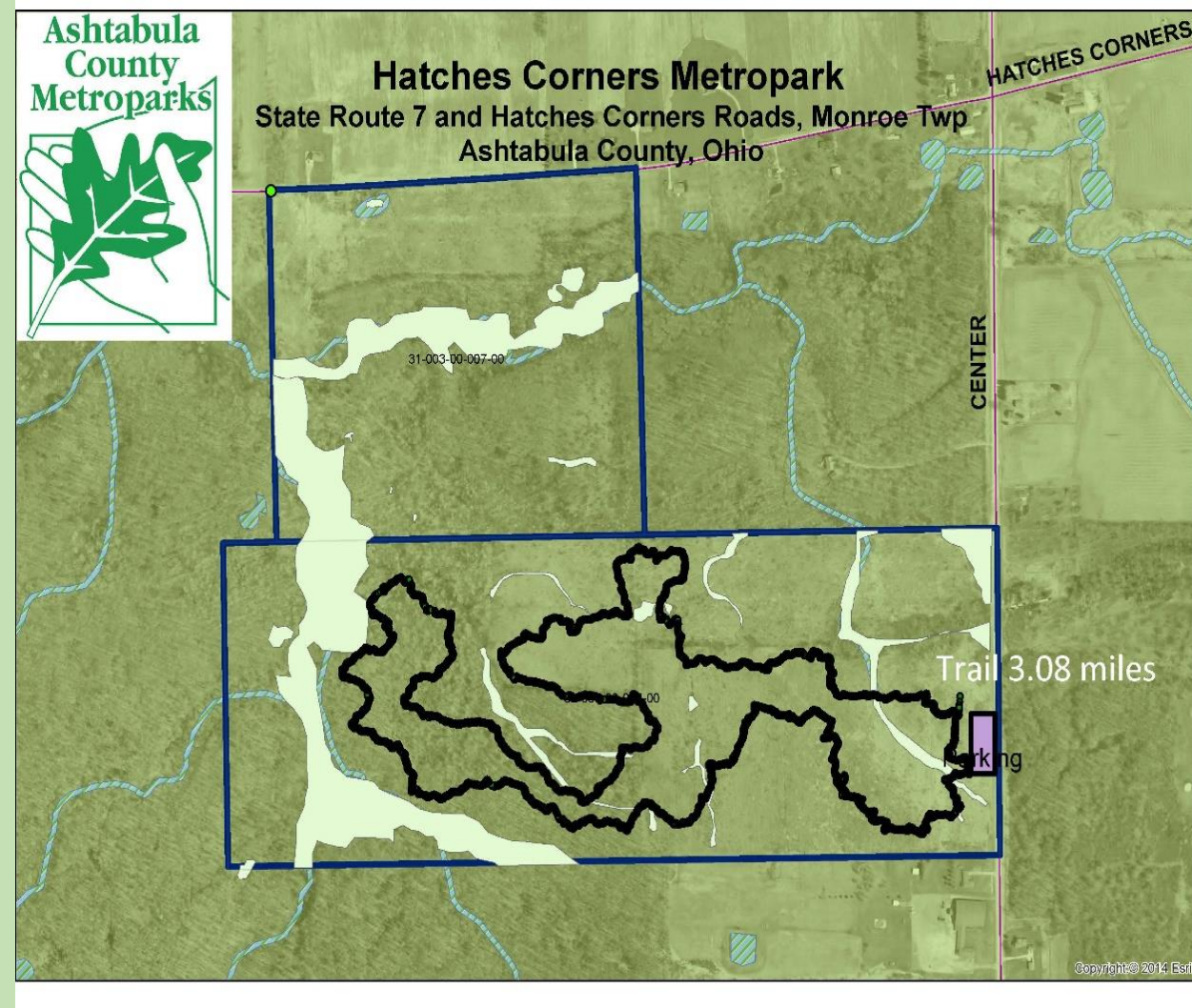




# Hatches Corners Metropark



**Figure 2:** Northern Red Salamander (*Pseudotriton ruber*). Photo: Paul Pira



Forest Nesting Birds Using Hatches Corners

Many special species of plants like Pale Sedges





# Graham Rd Covered Bridge, Pierpont



# Harpersfield Metropark - One of the Grand River's Most Recognizable Parks



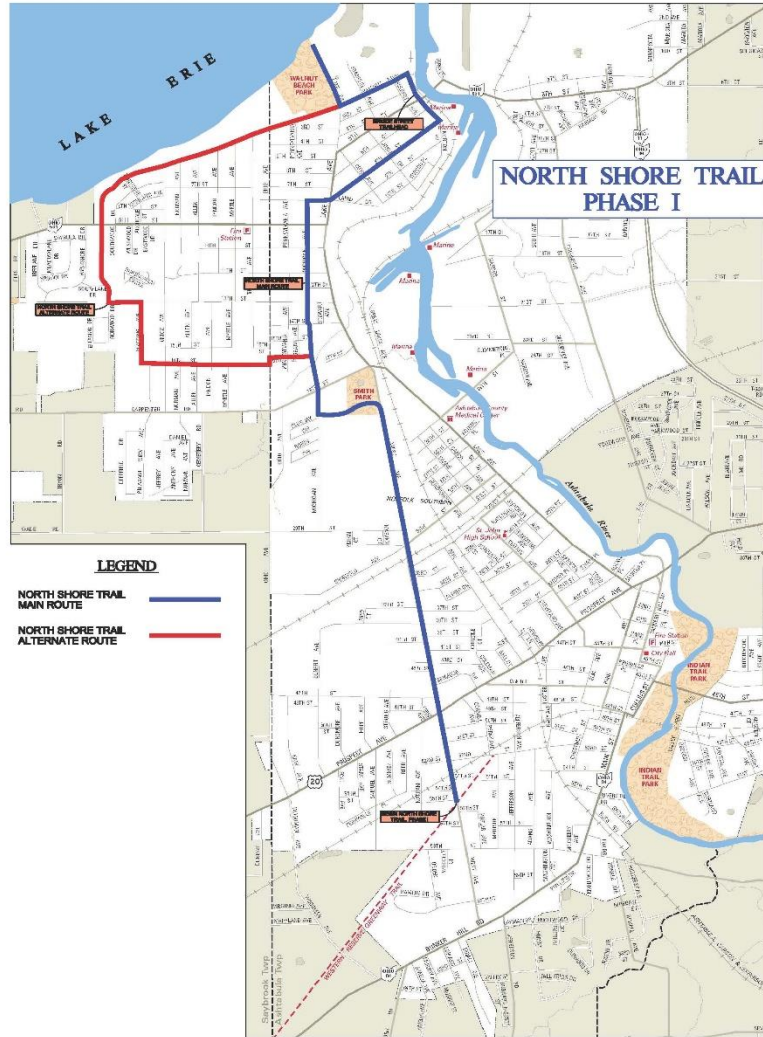


# Harpersfield Metropark





# North Shore Trail





# Lampson Reservoir Metropark





# Lampson Reservoir Metropark - 162 acres

## Jefferson, OH





# Western Reserve Greenway





# Eyring Wetlands – Windsor Mechanicsville Rd





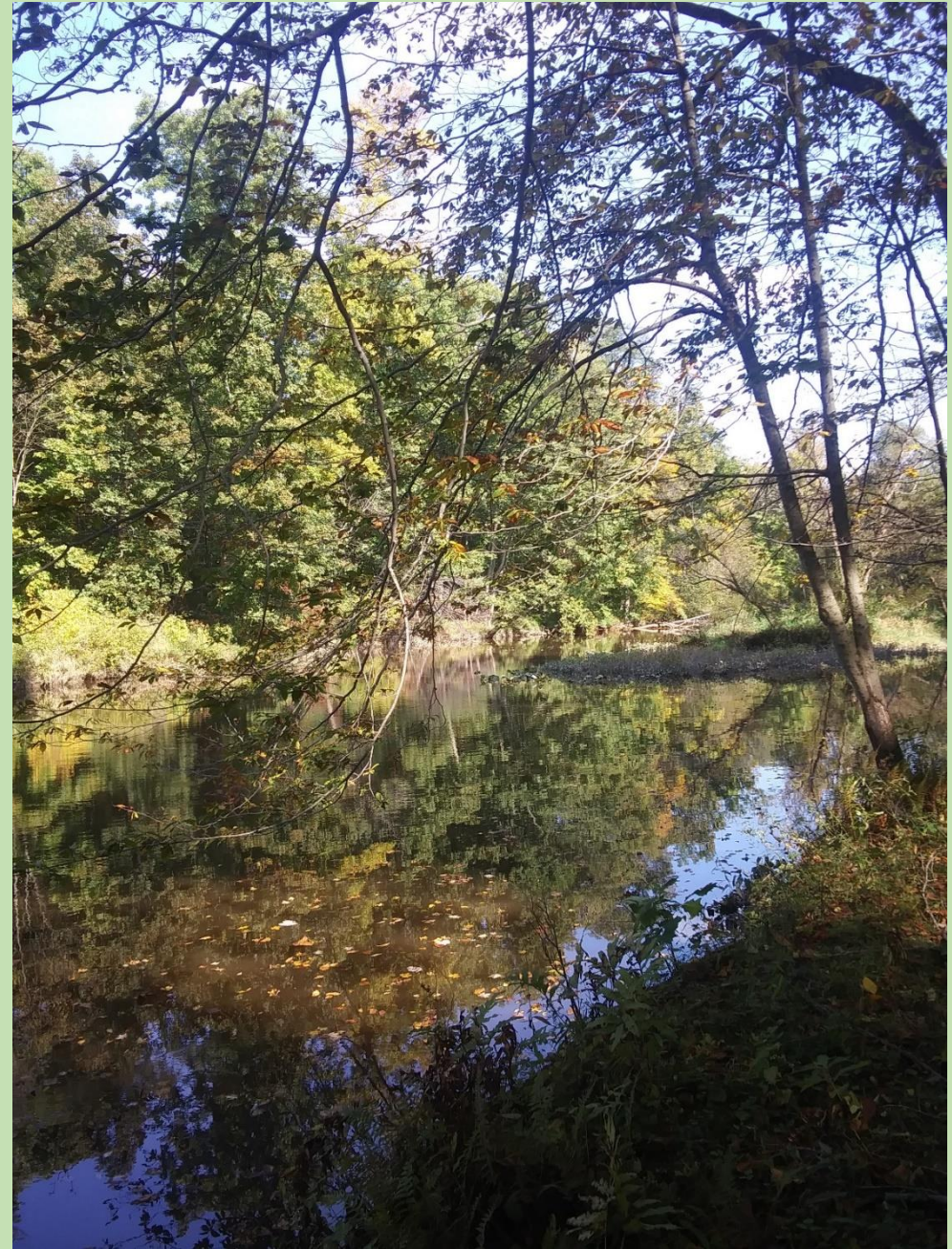
# Blakeslee Friends of Conneaut Creek Metropark





**15 Parks & Trails  
2400 Acres of  
Protected Land**

**9 Open Parks &  
Trails Covering  
1100 Acres**





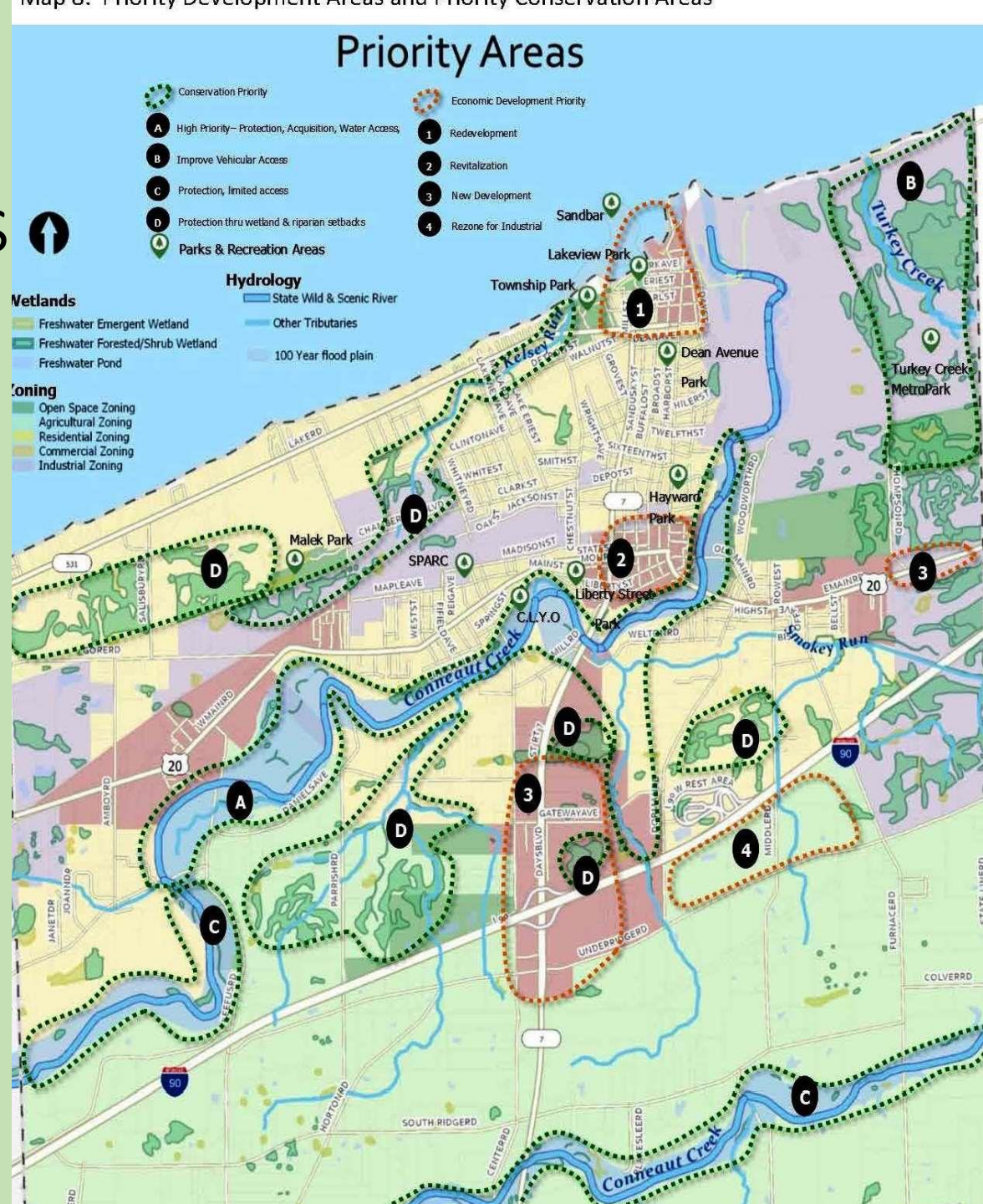
## **New Open Parks/Trails Expected in 2019**

- **Indian Mound Metropark, Conneaut- 53 acres with parking, 1.5 miles of trails, invasive species removal, interpretive signage. Other portions in 2020 & 2021.**
- **Upper Grand River Metropark, Austinburg Twp – 135 acres – planned parking, driveway, boat/fishing access, pavilion restoration (pool, bldg. removals)**
- **North Shore Trail Completion? – from Morrison Station to Ashtabula Harbor & Lake Erie – 4.25 Mile Trail (30 yrs in making)**

### **IN ADDITION:**

- **Turkey Creek Metropark, Conneaut, 602 acres, may be opened for limited use and access with parking planned/designed**

# Protection & Access in Concert with City of Conneaut & its Comp Plan



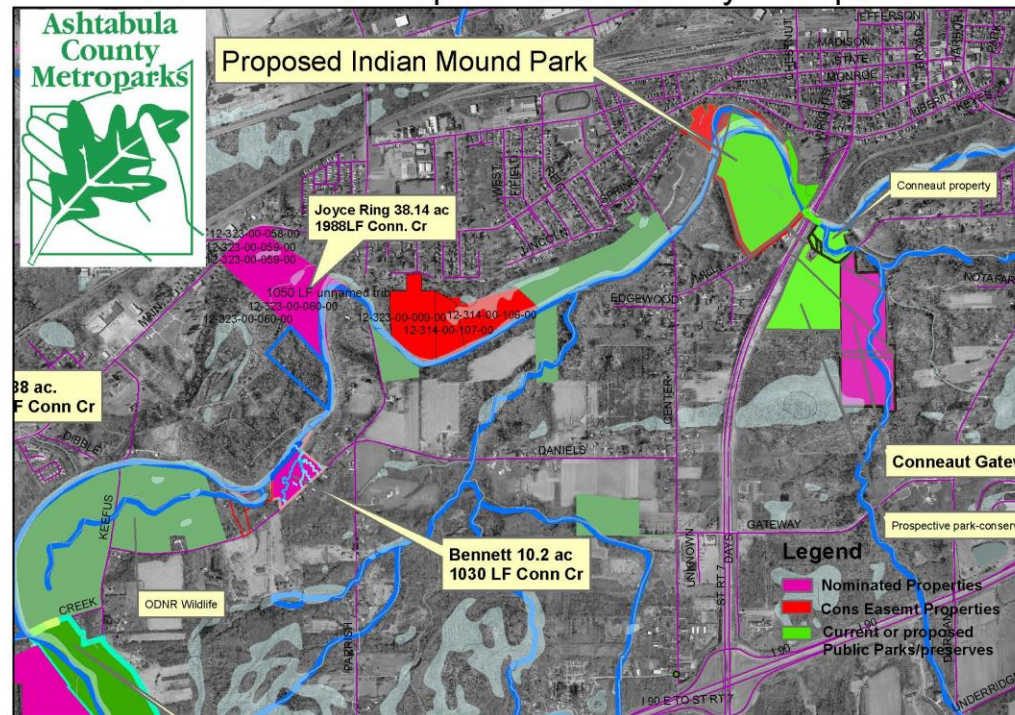




# Indian Mound Park

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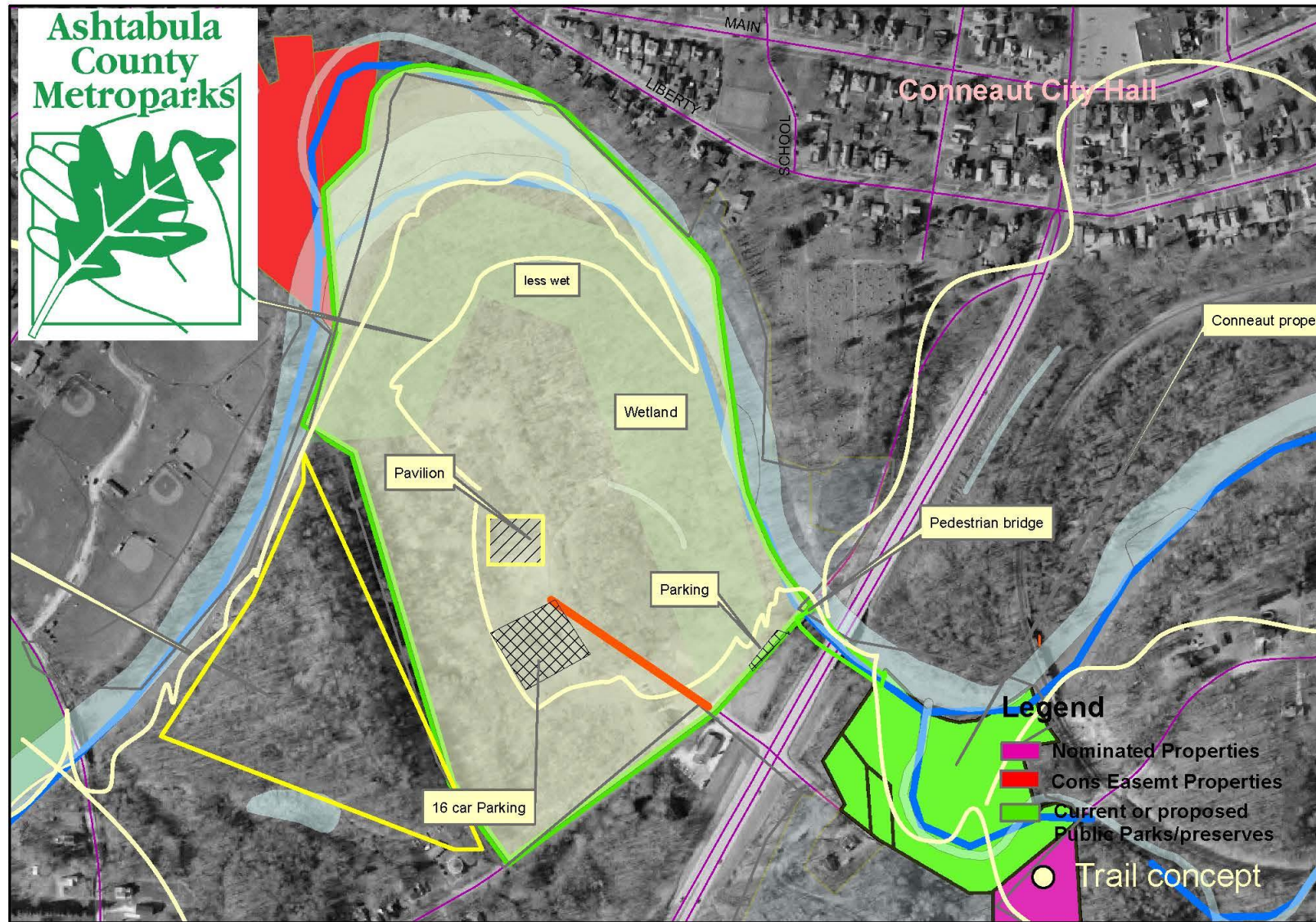
Conneaut Creek Indian Mound Park Project  
2018 COCF Area Map- Ashtabula County Metroparks





# Conneaut Creek Indian Mound Park Project

## 2018 COCF detailed Map- Ashtabula County Metroparks



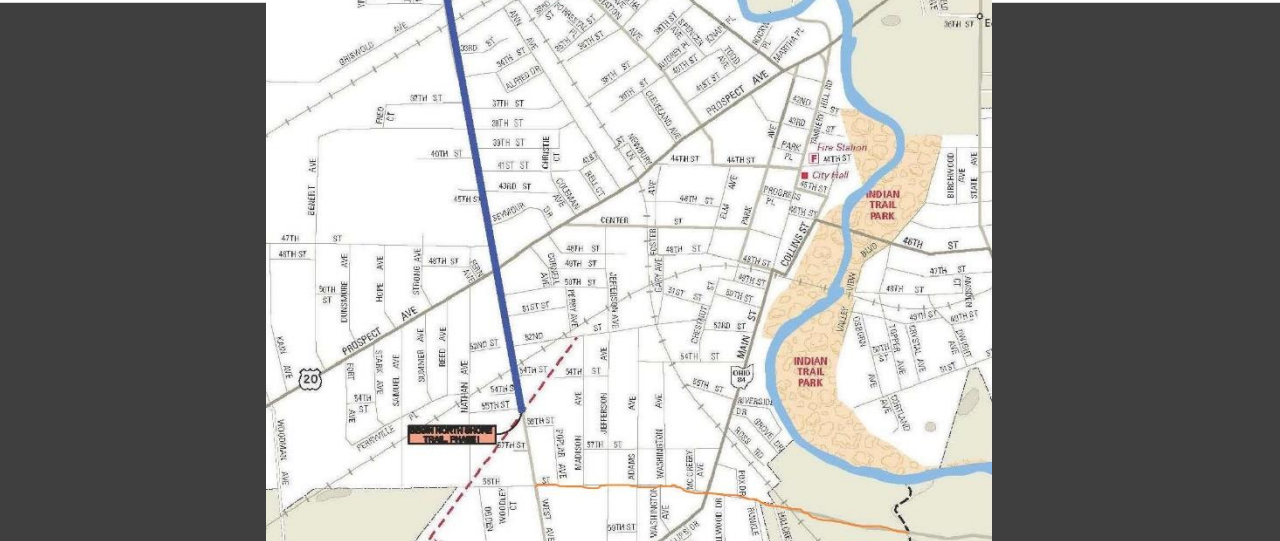
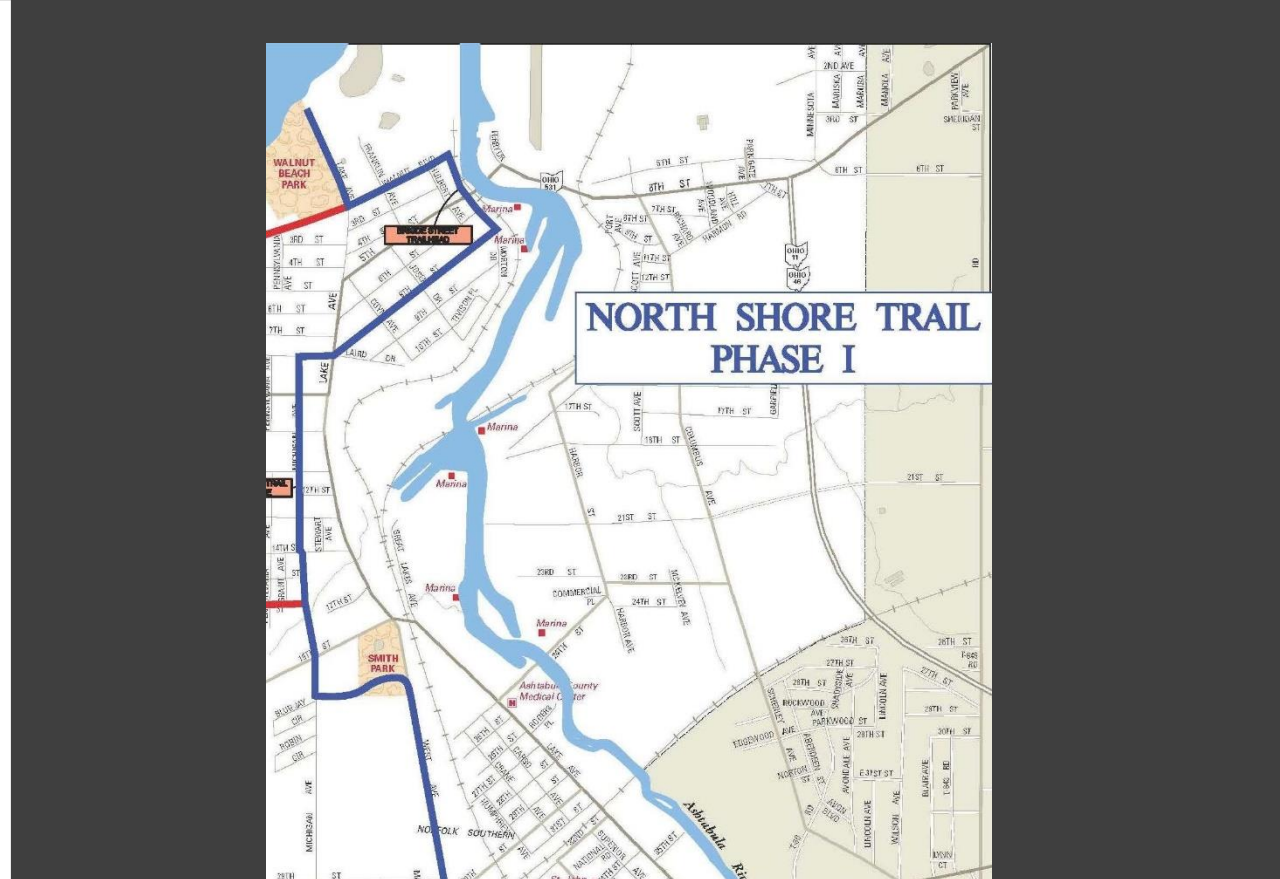


# Upper Grand Metropark





# Turkey Creek Metropark



North Shore Trail  
completion



# Other Work Planned for 2019

- **Master Planning Process – meetings for late Spring/Summer**
- **Habitat Planting @ Friends of Conneaut Creek (trees) , Hatches Corners, Red Brook**
- **Harpersfield Naturescape Playground Installed, Trails, Beach Volleyball, Sea Lamprey Barrier work**
- **Lampson Reservoir Metropark: ADA Ramp to Fishing Pier Completed**
- **Western Reserve Greenway – new parking lot at Rome-Rock Creek Rd, Acquisition of Rock Creek connecting properties to remove RC Bypass**
- **Expansion of Camp Peet Metropark footprint**
- **Red Brook Metropark habitat, building repair, trails planning &/or construction, sled hill, signage.**
- **Benches, picnic tables, spruce up at Eyring, etc**
- **Friends of Conneaut Creek trail sealing, tree planting, etc.**
- **Expanded Ranger Coverage**
- **Hoping to begin Pymatuning Greenway \$1.875 Million in grant requests for 1<sup>st</sup> 3.5 miles of trail**



# Funds Raised and Leveraged

## Prior to 2014 Levy

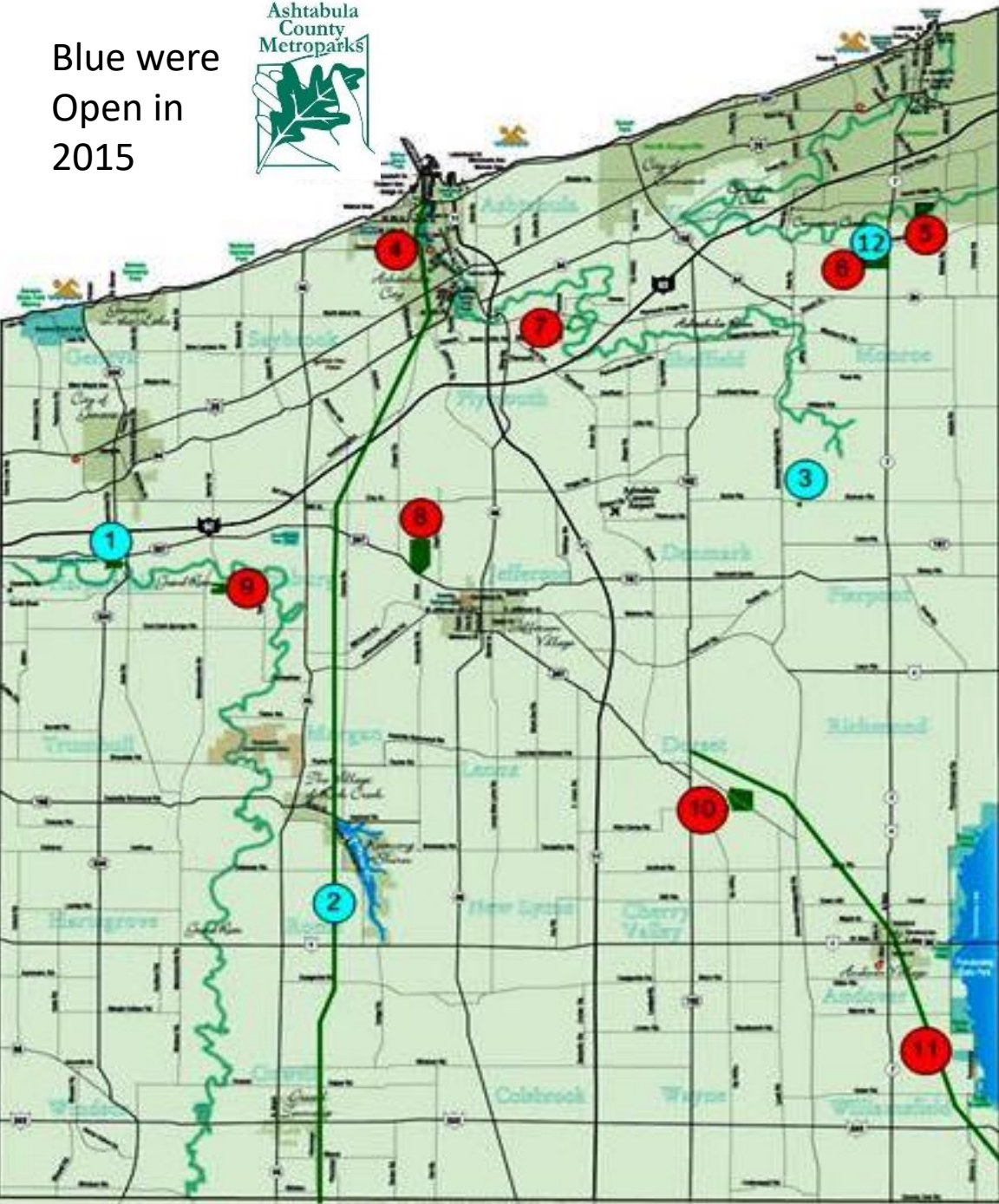
- \$17,000 - \$57,000
- Additional grants from CDC, foundations, periodic government grants

## Since Levy Passage

- \$852,000 park levy, \$51,000 other annual revenues for five years (again, \$18/yr per \$100k)
- \$10 Million in project & acquisition grant funds leveraged since early 2016. (1/2 project, 1/2 acquisition)
- \$3.5 Million in new requests submitted since 11/18 (of which, \$3.2 Million is for habitat restoration, trail development, construction of amenities)



Blue were  
Open in  
2015



# ASHTABULA COUNTY METROPARKS PARK MASTER PLAN





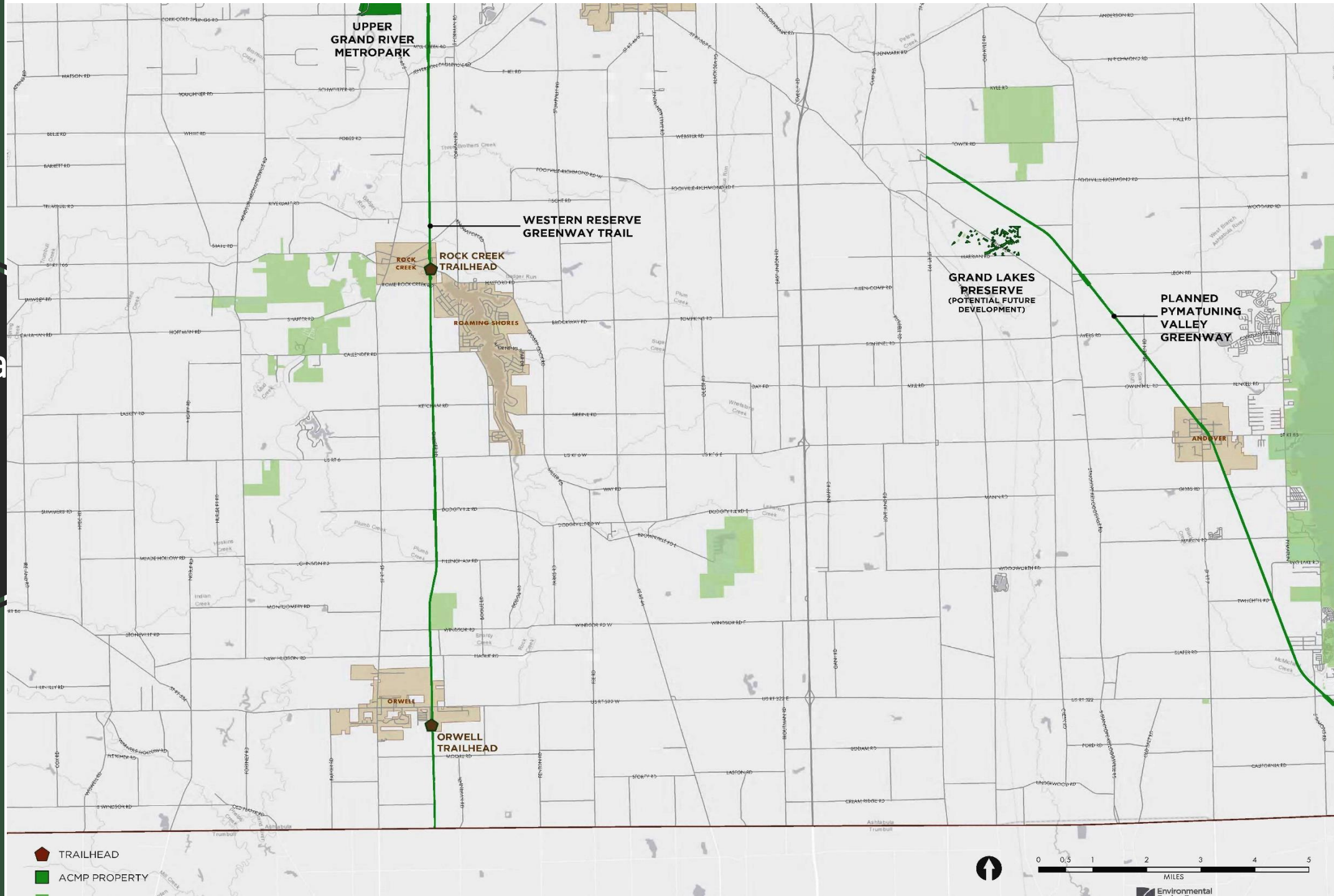
# ASHTABULA COUNTY METROPARKS PARK MASTER PLAN

## Ashtabula County Northern Section





# Ashtabula County Southern Section





# What else is new with Metroparks?



- Developed a new sign package and installed new signs at its parks.
- Secured \$1.161 Million in State/Federal Transportation pass-through funds for completion of the North Shore Trail hopefully in 2019.
- Constructed 6 rustic trails, plan 5 more paved trails, opened 6 additional parks.
- Partnered with federal, state and local agencies to plan, negotiate and begin replacement of the Sea Lamprey barrier at Harpersfield Metropark.
- While tripling the number of open park acreage, significantly made our parks and trails safer, cleaner and more accessible, including hiring of Park Rangers.
- 75% of purchases, wages, contracts support Ashtabula County businesses and taxpayers!
- Every dollar of your tax money to Metroparks is leveraging \$3-4 of additional grant funding invested here in Ashtabula County.



# What Does Metroparks Have Planned?

- Construction of the Pymatuning Valley Greenway Trail (4-6 phases, \$20-25M)
- 10-15 Mile Conneaut Creek Trail Loop and preservation
- A park system with 14 + parks and trails covering 2,500 acres open to the public
- Parks with 25 miles of primitive internal trails, 5 miles of paved trailsj
- Signed, marked roadway connections between parks and points of interest
- Lake Erie overlook and access at Turkey Creek
- Improved boat launch, Develop Master Plan for Upper Grand
- Nature Center/park welcome center
- Additional park programming to come



# What do you want/vision in Metropark System?

- Give us your comments and suggestions here
- Take your survey on Survey Monkey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PVHFWS3>

- Get involved!

Key ingredients in the vision for the future?

- Steady/secure funding base
- Future additional diversified funding sources/revenue stream
- Continued grant leverage



***Truly a good investment***

**For Fun, for Health, for Life**

**YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK!**



# However, Funding is hardly guaranteed:

- The ½ Mill Park Levy is only for five years.
- We will be into our 4<sup>th</sup> year of funding this month.
- It is expected that the Board of Park Commissioners will seek a five- year Levy Renewal (continuation) in November, 2019.

## Without Levy Funds:

- *All progress would halt.*
- *Staff could not be supported to maintain, improve parks*
- *Rangers could not keep the parks/trails safer*
- *Maintenance would have to be done solely by volunteers covering 5X the footprint prior to the levy.*

# Ashtabula County Metroparks



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